

Weekly Disease Surveillance Report

2023 Reporting Week 21: May 21 — May 27



This weekly report is produced by the DOH-Okaloosa Epidemiology Section to provide situational awareness to community partners. Data is subject to change as additional information is gathered.

COVID-19 Trends

COVID-19 levels for Okaloosa plateaued during Week 21.

With the discontinuation of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) on May 11, 2023, the Community Level has been retired, as well as the *COVID-19 in Okaloosa County* page of this WDSR. DOH-Okaloosa will continue to provide the COVID-19 Hospital Admission Level as an indicator for recommended interventions in the community and the COVID-19 Community Transmission Level. For more information on the recommended actions based on the current levels, please visit the [CDC COVID-19 by County](#) webpage. For more information on data and reporting changes, please visit the [CDC website dedicated to the end of the PHE Declaration](#).

On April 19, 2023, the CDC issued a [media statement](#) focusing on simplifying COVID-19 vaccine recommendations. Please visit the media statement for information regarding vaccination of young children and alternatives to mRNA COVID-19 vaccines.

ILI Trends

Influenza-like illness (ILI) in Okaloosa decreased slightly for Week 21, and remains in line with the normal average for this period, although elevated (current level: 2.14%; normal average: 2.0%).

Please stay vigilant, promote vaccination, and visit the weekly [Florida FLU REVIEW](#).

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COVID-19 Snapshot

Week 21 Hospital Admission Level




COVID-19 Hospital Admissions Level	New Hospital Admissions per 100K Population per Week
LOW	4.2

PREVIOUS WEEK LEVEL: LOW

The Community Level has been retired with the end of the federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE).

As a replacement, COVID-19 Hospital Admission Level will be used as an indicator for recommended interventions in the community based on each level and individual or community focus.

For more information on the levels and recommended actions based on the current level, please visit the [CDC COVID-19 by County](#) webpage.

HIGH		≥ 20.0
MEDIUM		10.0 - 19.9
LOW		<10.0

Week 21 Community Transmission Level

COVID-19 Community Risk Level	New Cases per 100K Population per Week	% Positivity per Week
HIGH	19.9	13.5%

PREVIOUS WEEK RISK LEVEL: MODERATE

Low	<10	<5.0%
Moderate	10-49	5.0 - 7.9%
Substantial	50-99	8.0 - 9.9%
High	>100	>10.0%

With the end of the federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) on May 11, 2023, CDC no longer receives data needed to publish Community Transmission levels for SARS-CoV-2. However, DOH-Okaloosa will continue to report local numbers.



Influenza-Like Illness

Week 21: May 21 - May 27

Influenza-like Illness (ILI) is defined as fever greater than or equal to 100°F AND cough and/or sore throat in the absence of another known cause.

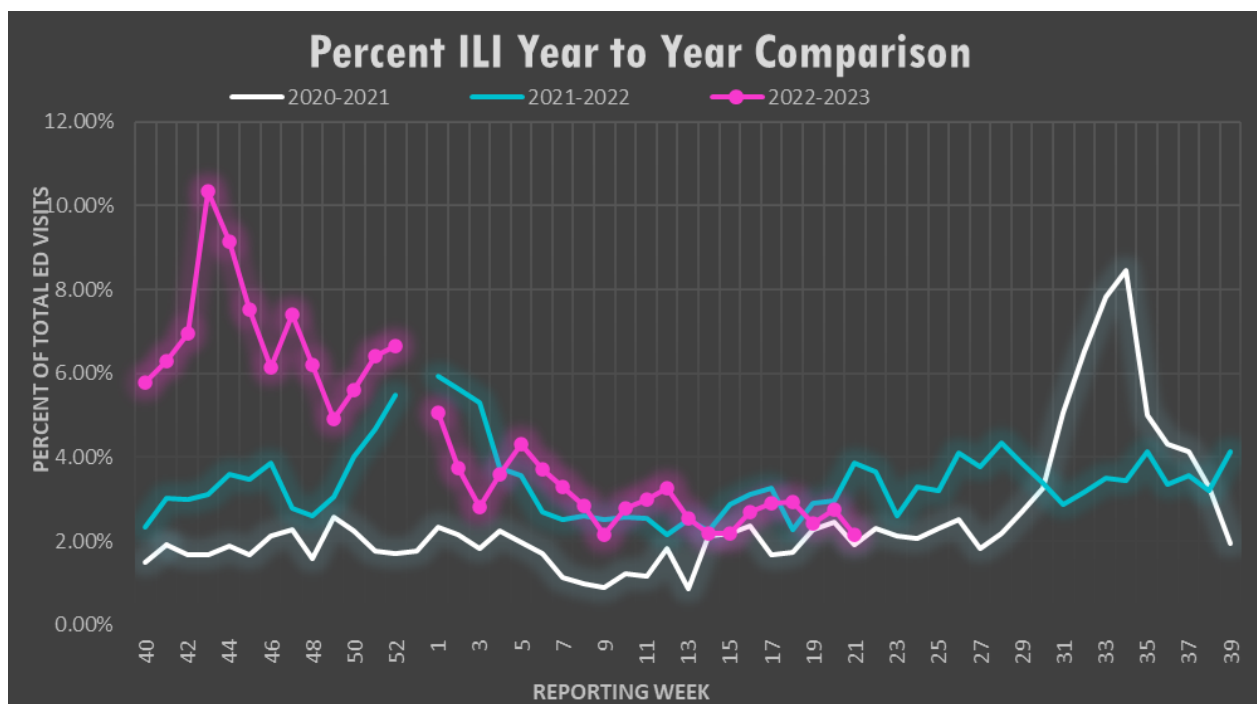


Figure 2:

Annual comparison of the percent of all hospital ED visits due to ILI for Okaloosa county for the 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 influenza seasons by week.

Data source:

ESSENCE

ANALYSIS: During Week 21, flu reporting partners and ESSENCE (a syndromic surveillance system) reported a decrease in ILI activity for Okaloosa County. The percentage of ILI ED visits in Okaloosa County decreased this week (2.75% during Week 20 to 2.14% during Week 21). Flu partners reported 4 positive rapid flu test this week (1 Influenza A and 3 Influenza B). There was 1 positive specimen submitted to the state lab over the past three weeks (Influenza A H1N1). There were no ILI admissions or deaths reported by flu partners this week. No outbreaks have been reported in the past 3 weeks. The percentage of total ILI ED visits for Week 21 is lower than that of Week 21 last year.

Note: Other respiratory syndromes can be represented by increased ILI case numbers. Data Source: ESSENCE

% ILI by Age Group Week 21, 2023

Age Range	ILI Visits	Total ED Visits	% Total ILI Visits
0-4	20	223	8.97%
5-19	15	329	4.56%
20-34	10	538	1.86%
35-54	10	662	1.51%
55-74	1	581	0.17%
75+	1	324	0.31%

Data Source: ESSENCE

% of Total ILI Visits by Facility Week 21, 2023

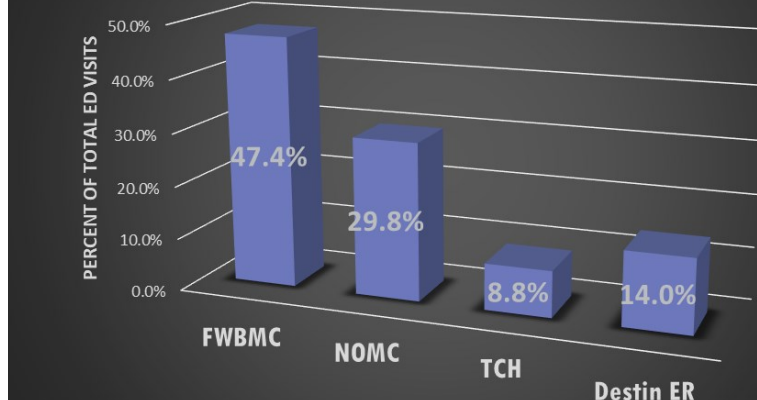


Figure 3: Hospital ED visits meeting ILI criteria stratified by facility. Percentages calculated based on total number of ILI ED visits. (n=57). Data source: ESSENCE



Syndromic Surveillance

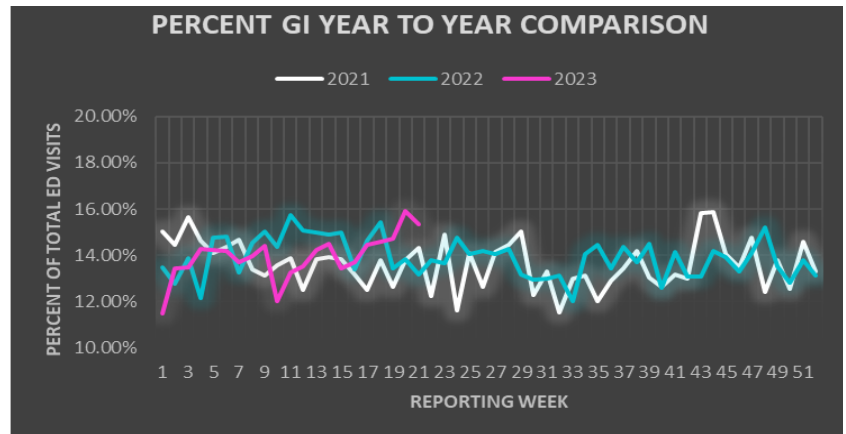
Week 21: May 21 - May 27

Gastro-intestinal Illness (GI)

Figure 4:

Annual comparison for the percent of GI for all Okaloosa County hospital ED visits week to week for 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Data Source: ESSENCE

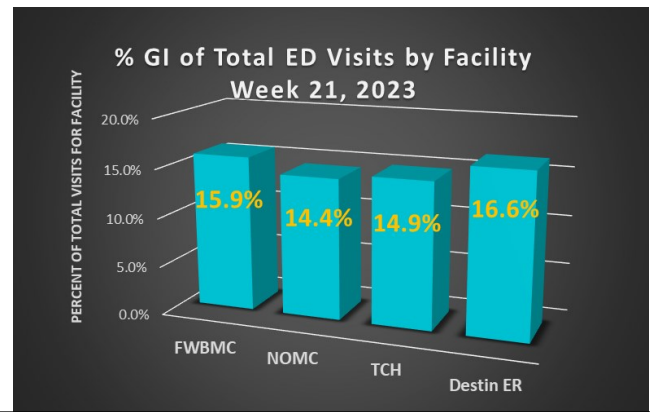


% GI by Age Group Week 20, 2023			
Age Range	GI Visits	Total ED Visits	% Total GI Visits
0-4	34	223	15.25%
5-19	54	329	16.41%
20-34	96	538	17.84%
35-54	114	662	17.22%
55-74	84	581	14.46%
75+	26	324	8.02%

Figure 5:

Hospital emergency room visits due to GI illness stratified by facility.

Data source: ESSENCE

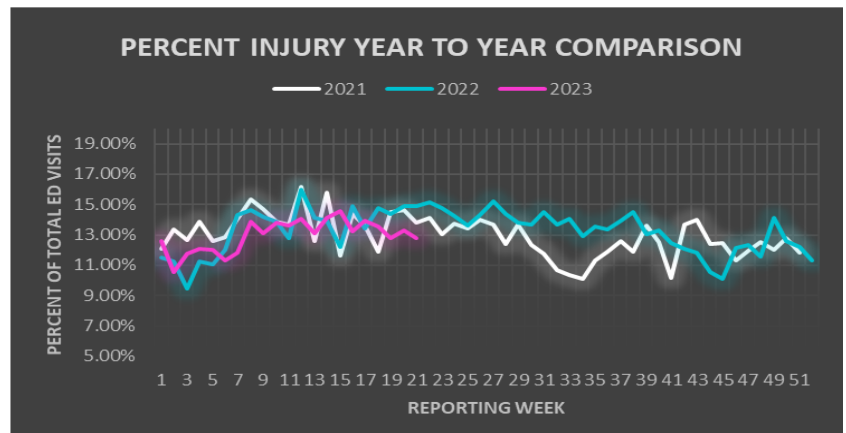


Injury

Figure 6:

Annual comparison for the percent of Injury for all Okaloosa County hospital ED visits week to week for 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Data Source: ESSENCE

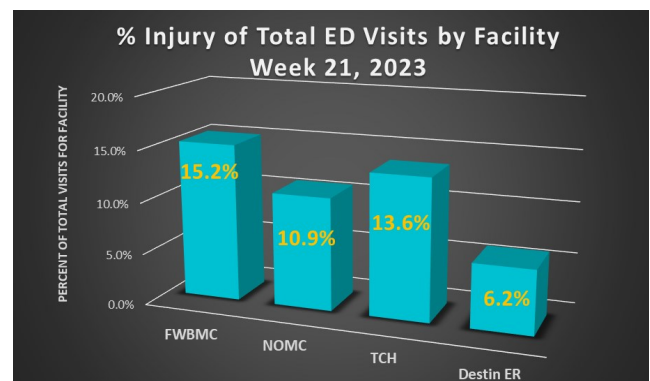


% Injury by Age Group Week 20, 2023			
Age Range	Injury Visits	Total ED Visits	% Total Injury Visits
0-4	20	223	8.97%
5-19	42	329	12.77%
20-34	74	538	13.75%
35-54	84	662	12.69%
55-74	65	581	11.19%
75+	55	324	16.98%

Figure 7:

Hospital emergency room visits due to Injury stratified by facility.

Data source: ESSENCE





Syndromic Surveillance

Week 21: May 21 - May 27

Total ED Visits by Syndrome

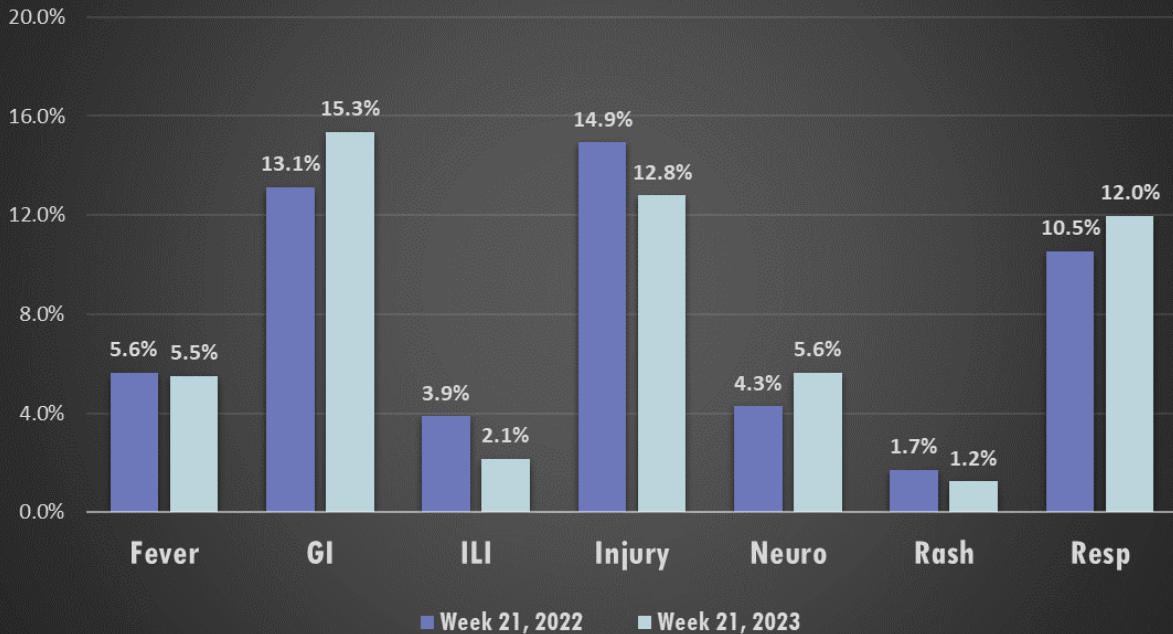
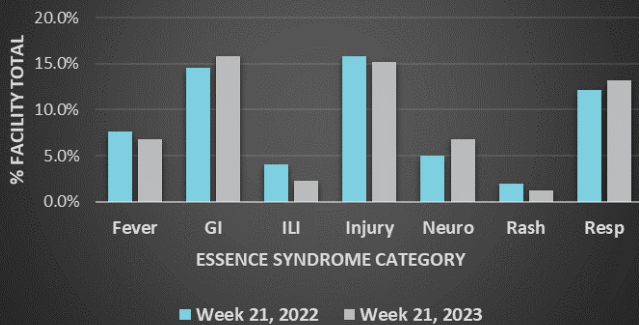


Figure 8: Hospital Emergency Department (ED) visits from 2023 Week 21 by select syndrome category. Percentages calculated based on total number of ED visits (n=2568). Some syndrome categories are not represented; therefore, represented percentages will not total 100%. Data source: ESSENCE

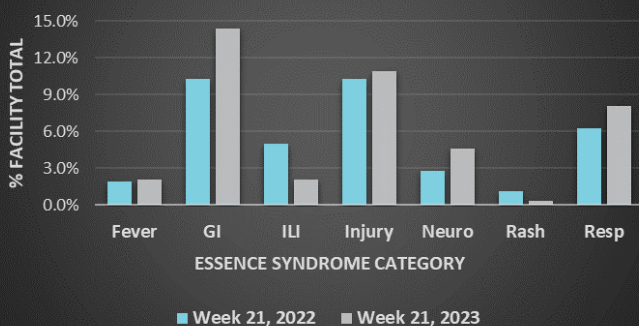
Fort Walton Beach Medical Center ED Presentations



Week 21- Fort Walton Beach Medical Center

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	FEVER	37
5-19	RESP	33
20-34	ILI	4
35-54	GI	52
55-74	GI	39
75+	RESP	25

North Okaloosa Medical Center ED Presentations



Week 21- North Okaloosa Medical Center

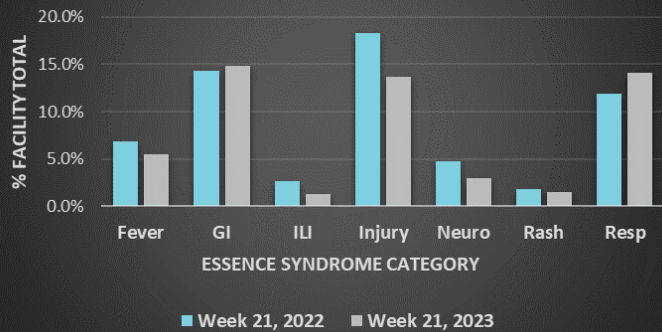
Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	RESP	13
5-19	GI	13
20-34	GI	30
35-54	GI	41
55-74	INJURY	23
75+	INJURY	17



Syndromic Surveillance

Week 21: May 21 - May 27

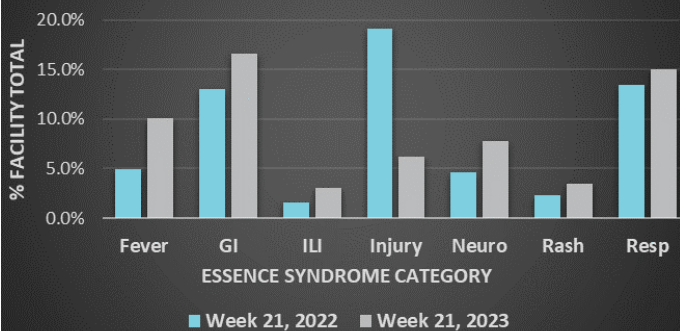
Twin Cities Hospital ED Presentations



Week 21 - Twin Cities Hospital

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	FEVER	9
5-19	RESP	9
20-34	GI	18
35-54	RESP	12
55-74	GI	14
75+	INJURY	16

DestinER ED Presentations



Week 21 - Destin ER

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	FEVER	11
5-19	RESP	11
20-34	GI	8
35-54	GI	13
55-74	GI	9
75+	NEURO, RESP	4, 4

Week 21—Okaloosa County

Age Group	Top Syndrome
0-4	FEVER
5-19	RESP
20-34	GI
35-54	GI
55-74	GI
75+	INJURY



Data Source: ESSENCE